

FIGHT IN MIRE IN BHUTAN DESCRIBED

Letter Tells of Odd Annual Contest as Ceremony of Blessing Rice Fields.

WOMEN DRIVE BACK MEN

Result Taken Indicates Increase of Flocks and Herds in Year—Visitors Find Out How Capable Housewives Are.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—One of the oddest annual contests in the world, a mud and water fight, during which the women of far-off and little known Bhutan, in the heart of the Himalayas, seek to prevent the men from taking possession of an inundated rice field, is described by John Claude White, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, at Washington. The event is known as the Spring ceremony of blessing the rice fields. Victory for the women portends, during the contest, a season of fertility of the soil and increase among the flocks and herds.

"Early one morning the sound of a sweet-toned gong awakened us at the Spring ceremony of blessing the rice fields was about to begin," writes Mr. White. "A long and picturesque procession of men and women, led by the donkey, came winding down the hillside until the first rice field, into which water had been running all day before, was reached. The field below was still dry, and turning in there they all sat down and had some refreshments."

"Suddenly the men sprang up, throwing off their outer garments; this was the signal for the women to rush to the inundated field and to commence throwing clouds of mud and splashes of muddy water on the men below as they tried to climb up. Then followed a wild and mad, though always good-natured struggle between the men and the women in the water, the men doing their utmost to take possession of the watery field, the women equally determined to keep them out."

"The donkey, the leader of the men, suffered severely, though the courtesies of war were strictly observed, and in one of the assaults fell his opponents helped him up and gave him breathing space to recover before another onslaught was made. But gradually the women drove the men slowly down the whole length of the field, until the last stand was made by a very stout and powerful official, who, clinging to an overhanging rock, with his back to his foes, used his feet to scoop up such quantities of mud and water that no one was able to come near him. However, all the other men having been driven off, he and the donkey were allowed at last to crawl up on the path, and the combat for the year was over. The victory of the women was looked upon as a propitious omen, so they applauded to their various homes rejoicing."

"We here saw what capable housewives the Bhutan ladies are. Everything was done systematically. In the morning the provisions for the day were given out, no easy task, with some hundreds of retainers to feed, and the storehouses re-stocked, orders issued, and tasks appointed in spinning, weaving, etc., to be carried out by the large household of women, and it was interesting to observe the manner in which these dames are held. We were shown all the industries of weaving in cotton, wool and silk, the process of dyeing, the making of swords and gold and silversmiths' work. Many pieces turned out by the latter were of exquisite quality. It is all most interesting and instructive."

"We visited a somewhat gruesome spot, where the heads of the higher families are exposed on a slab of rock after death to be eaten by lammergeisters. It was a beautiful, though terrible, spot, close under the snow and glaciers of their sacred mountain, Chomo-Lha-ri.

"This country was so little known that as recently as 1890 a high official wrote most undeservedly, as my explorations proved: 'No one wishes to explore that tangle of jungle-clad and fever-stricken hills, infested with leeches and the pipsa-fly, and offering no compensating advantages to the most enterprising pioneer. Science passes it by as a region not sufficiently characteristic to merit special exploration.'"

MRS. McCULLOCH AT REST Many Attend Funeral of Wife of Portland Steamboat Man.

Early Harvest Predicted. PENDLETON, Or., April 28.—(Special.)—Harvest operations in Umatilla County will be started from two to four weeks earlier than usual this year.

Interest in Paper Bought. ELMA, Wash., April 28.—(Special.)—Frank Jacobs, of Montezano, has purchased a half interest in the Elma Chronicle from Paul W. Harvey, who retained the other half interest. The Elma Chronicle was established more than 25 years ago.



Victrola IV, \$15 Other styles of the Victor and Victrola \$10 to \$200

Dancing is delightful to the music of the Victrola. Everyone enjoys dancing to music of such splendid volume, such clearness and perfect rythmn.

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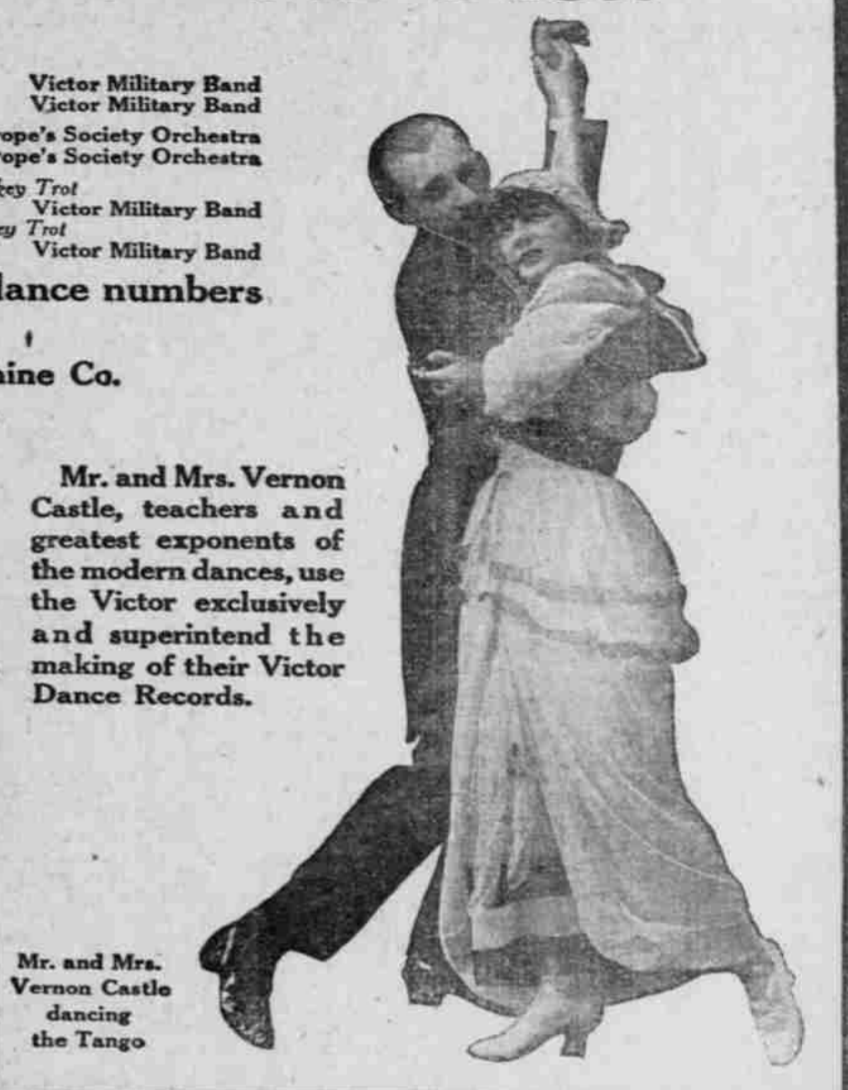
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Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle, teachers and greatest exponents of the modern dances, use the Victor exclusively and superintend the making of their Victor Dance Records.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle dancing the Tango

HOLLAND IS LAUDED

Former Spokane Boxer Wins Laurels in Australia.

MUCH HONOR IS SHOWN

Papers Loud in Praise of Visitor, Declaring No Better Exhibition Has Been Seen Since Johnson and Burns Fought.

Fritz Holland, former boxing instructor at the Spokane Amateur Athletic Club, scored a great victory in his first fight in Australia. The crack welterweight met Tom McCormick, one of England's best, at Melbourne on March 28, and made him look like a tyro.

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New Cannery Nearly Ready. HUSUM, Wash., April 28.—(Special.)—The new cannery on the line of the North Bank railroad and near the White Salmon wharf will soon be ready for business.

KUBS AND BUCKS WIN

WALLA WALLA AND YAKIMA GO DOWN TO DEFEAT.

SPORT HITS AND MISSES

While Izzy Kaufman was pitching Tacoma to his second victory the other day, the stark paid a visit to Izzy's home and left a baby daughter in the cradle.

ONE WORD FATAL TO PETITION

Anti-Prizefight Initiative Measure May Wait Another Year.

Woodland Beats Kalama, 77 to 45.

Woodland, Wash., April 28.—(Special.)—The try-out meeting between Woodland and Kalama, for the opening annual county track meet in May, was held here Saturday and resulted in a score of 77 points for Woodland and

COLUMBIA WINS BY ONE

With Game Almost Won by 3-0 Score, Collegians Rally in Fifth; Merry Chase Follows.

PORTLAND MAN IS WINNER

Fred Dryden Captures Prize at Shoot Held by Albany Gun Club.

WHITMAN AGAIN DEFEATED

Washington State College Wallops Opponents Twice in Same Place.

Cottage Grove Wins Third Game.

Albany to Have Band Concerts.

WOMEN APPRECIATE STYLE

in clothes more than men; even men's styles; that's a good reason why women influence to so great an extent the buying of men's clothes.

LEWIS UNION SUIT

The fact that we sell more high grade clothes than any other makers put us in debt to American women; they know.

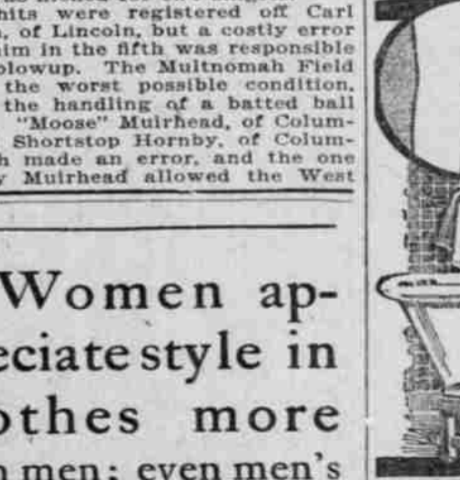
HART SCHAFFNER & MARX

Good Clothes Makers

Sam'l Rosenblatt & Co. The Home of "Hart Schaffner & Marx" Clothes.

SKELTON OF MAN FOUND

Pendleton, Or., April 28.—(Special.)—O. D. Scott, section foreman for the O. W. R. & N. Co. at Haron, reports finding a human skeleton in the brush along the railroad track near Porter's siding, 45 miles east of Pendleton. All the flesh had been eaten off the bones by coyotes. The clothing had been torn to pieces and contained no marks of identification.



Women appreciate style in clothes more than men; even men's styles; that's a good reason why women influence to so great an extent the buying of men's clothes. The fact that we sell more high grade clothes than any other makers put us in debt to American women; they know. Hart Schaffner & Marx Good Clothes Makers

A Summer Weight Knitted LEWIS Union Suit

with full length legs and sleeves. This popular Lewis Union Suit serves every purpose for summer wear. Yet it affords weather protection. Made with Closed Croch which gives ease of adjustment. Lewis Union Suits in this and other styles are acceptable in hottest weather because the Lewis Spring needle knitting process gives them extraordinary elasticity. They return instantly to their original shapes. And therefore fit perpetually.



Lewis Knitting Co. Union Suit Originators Janesville, Wis.